



CITY OF FITCHBURG

2018 GTLC Annual Report

for Fitchburg's participation in the Sustainability Component
of the Green Tier Legacy Communities Charter

Last Revised March 2019

SUSTAINABILITY MISSION STATEMENT:

Protect the natural and cultural resources which characterize the City of Fitchburg and promote responsible land development and economic growth for a thriving, resilient and Forward Fitchburg.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Ride Share Pilot** – The Fitchburg Rideshare pilot program began operating in December 2017, under contract with Richwood Transport, LLC to provide transportation services. The intent of the program was to provide transportation options at a lower cost than bus service. The contract with Richwood Transport started in December 2017, and the pilot program served 1319 rides from December 2017 to the end of 2018. The pilot program showed that riders want transportation options and that Richwood Transport is not able to meet the expectations of the contract. The Common Council passed a resolution to terminate the contract effective March 9, 2019.
- **Voluntary Idling Reduction Campaign** continues with several local businesses and organizations participating.
- **State Trail Bike Pass Sales** – In 2018, 78 state bike trail passes were sold at the Fitchburg Community Center, up from 73 state bike trail passes in 2017.
- **Bike Path Improvements.** – Bike paths were resurfaced and replaced on East Cheryl Parkway bike, McKee Farms Park bike path, Seminole Glen Park Bike Path, and the Huegel/Jamestown Park Bike Path. Plans in 2019 include resurfacing the bike path on the west side of Seminole Hwy from Executive Drive South to the existing east/west path and the path that crosses Persimmons drive north to help with drainage. New path will be installed in McGaw Park around the west diamond, and a new path will be paved from Nobel Dr south in the Techlands Park.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** – In 2018, a standing Bicycle Committee was formed to carry out the policies and recommendations to improve bicycling and pedestrian facilities and safety of the 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian plan.
- **Bike and Pedestrian Safety** – Pervious pavement multi-use path was installed on a portion of Lacy Road and a new intersection was created at Rock Ridge Road and Lacy Road. Public water main, roadway, trail, and sidewalk improvements to service the Sub-Zero addition were completed in 2018.
- **Future Road Construction** – 2018 was a year of planning for upcoming road construction on S. Fish Hatchery, McKee, and the Nesbitt Road/Fitchrona Road Roundabout. Community stakeholder outreach included focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety on these major roads.
- **Dynamic Speed Signs** – Signs showing traffic speed by school and other roads are solar powered.
- **Bicycle Commuter Station during Wisconsin Bike Week 2018** – Staff partnered with Fitchburg Bicycling Advocates to host a commuter station at the bike roundabout to encourage people to continue riding to work for the healthy and environmental benefits. Nearly 350 people stopped to enjoy donated refreshments and a free bike tune-up from Fitchburg Cycles.
- **Library distributed helmets to kids at Leopold Community Nights** – Summer 2018

LAND USE

- **Tree Advisory Committee** – The committee continues working on a long-term urban forestry plan focusing on canopy cover goals. Stakeholders will have many opportunities to provide input in the planning and review process.
- **Community Gardens and Orchards** – The City hosted a community garden at Swan Creek Park and an orchard at the Senior Center in 2018.

- **Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness** – Updated the EAB Readiness and Response Plan to an EAB Management Plan. Assessed 204 trees and treated approximately 200 public ash trees with insecticide (Treeage) to protect them from [Emerald Ash Borer](#).
- **Arbor Day & International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) Celebration** – Celebrated 21 years as a Tree City. Coordinated fifth annual IMBD event to celebrate and raised awareness to the importance of birds in Fitchburg. Fitchburg first became a [Bird City Wisconsin](#) in 2013.
- **Tree Planting & Forest Restoration Pilot** – Volunteers helped maintain over 100 oak seedlings in nurseries in McGaw Park and the Tower Hill Greenway. Ten of these trees were transplanted in forest restoration work projects in Nobel Woods, McGaw Park, Oak Meadow Park, Seminole Glen Park, the Wildwood Kettle Pond, and Wildwood Park.
- **Prescribed burns** were conducted at 11 natural areas in 2018.
- **Urban Tree Inventory** – Updated approximately 40% of the urban tree inventory in ArcGIS.
- **Native seeding** – Volunteers pulled weeds and planted native prairie plant seedlings in the Harlan Hills Prairie, McGaw Park entrance prairie, McGaw Park Tall Grass Area, Wildwood South Kettle Pond, Wildwood South Park, Chicory Meadows Park, Oak Meadow Park, and Nobel Woods. A native plant restoration area was established under four oak trees in McGaw Park to serve as an example of an oak savanna ecosystem.
- **Invasive species removal** – Volunteers removed garlic mustard, honeysuckle, burdock, buckthorn, box elder, and black locust from McGaw Park, Nobel Woods, Oak Meadow Park, and Chicory Meadows Park.
- **Turf maintenance** – Many strategies have been adopted to save staff time and find ways to reduce chemical and fertilizer use. Aerating reduces the need for herbicides and larger mowers reduces number of hours staff need to mow. Planting longer grasses and low fescue varieties also require less mowing.

ENERGY

- **Solar Photovoltaic project** – The City added four new solar PV installations in 2017, and 2018 was the first full year of energy production. According to calculations from Legacy Solar Co-op, the new solar arrays resulted in a 9% reduction in imported electricity, and a 17% reduction in electric charges. The actual solar production (275501 kWh) was slightly higher than the predicted production (247573 kWh) for the four installations.
- **Fire Stations** – New East Fire Station construction began in 2018. The building design is similar the station built in 2017 with many green building features, including: geothermal heating/cooling, day lighting, LED lighting, solar thermal panels. The plan is to add solar PV after construction is complete.
- **City of Fitchburg Campus Energy Benchmarking** – We continue to work with an energy consultant for energy use analysis and benchmarking. Staff made minor adjustments to facilities management. In 2018, renewable sources fulfilled approximately 21% of the electric needs of four buildings.
- **Park Facilities** – LED path lighting was installed on the western McKee bike path in addition to ongoing work to transition park lighting to LED as bulbs and fixtures need replacement.
- **Water Utility Pumping Schedule** – Ongoing effort to pump water at off-peak times when energy rates are reduced continued in 2018.

WATER

- **Annual Waterway Cleanup** – On April 21st, volunteers, Council Members, RCC members, and elected officials helped to collect trash and recyclables from a few Fitchburg waterways. These include: Swan Creek of Nine Springs Neighborhood, Yarmouth Greenway, Belmar Neighborhood near Dunn's Marsh, Seminole Forest, and Quarry Hill Park of Fahey Glen Neighborhood. Cleanups were also held at Target and Placon in Fitchburg. The employees from these companies cleaned up public land throughout stormwater facilities and bike trails.
- **Toilet Rebates** – [The Water and Sanitary Sewer Utilities](#) continued the toilet rebate program in 2018 to encourage replacement of high gallon per flush toilets manufactured prior to 1994 with efficient WaterSense-approved models to [promote water conservation](#). The utility provided rebates of up to \$100 for 42 customers with an estimated annual saving of 526,000 gallons of water. The program will be continued in 2019.

- **Inlet Mural:** In partnership with the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) an inlet mural was painted at the Fitchburg Library. This mural will be used as an educational tool for youth programs and bring attention to where the water goes during rain events.
- **Emergency Stormwater Repairs** – A culvert on East Clayton road needed to be repaired after a large rainfall event. Public Works crews responded and replaced the culvert. A portion of the Capital City Trail was also washed away by a large storm event. Followed up repairs were completed by Dane County. Storm Sewer on Targhee Street required repair and subsequent roadway patching as well.
- **August Flooding:** Severe flooding in Fitchburg on August 20th - 21st resulted in a near 24-hour record rainfall in the western portions of Fitchburg. Fitchburg public works responded to multiple instances of flooding and closed numerous roads that overtopped.
- **AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure)** – The Fitchburg Water Utility completed installation of the new Sensus metering system in early 2018, which provides enhanced customer service, hourly data, remote reads, leak and reverse flow detection, and tampered wire detection.
- **Yahara WINS Adaptive Management:** Participated in quarterly meetings and outreach to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading to downstream water resources.
- **Well Rehabilitation** – Well No. 11 was removed from service for maintenance work in 2018. This well was in good shape, only a few column pipe needed to be replaced. This project improved the efficiency of this well.
- **Salt/chloride reduction** – Several members of the Public Works crews attended the regional Winter Salt Reduction Workshop and recorded an educational video for Wisconsin Salt Wise demonstrating ways to reduce salt. Articles on salt reduction were included in the *Fitchburg Star*, a local monthly newspaper delivered to all residents. The goal is to keep chlorides out of waterways and drinking water.
- **Street sweeping** – The Streets Maintenance Crew swept 127 miles of streets to keep pollution, debris and nutrients out of waterways.

WASTE

- **City Hall E-Cycling/Battery Recycling** – The City continues to collect batteries, inkjet cartridges, cell phones, hearing aids, and eye glasses for recycling and reuse. The City collected an estimated 627 lbs. of alkaline batteries and lithium button batteries. Cell phones and smart phones are sent to Cell Phones for Soldiers, a nonprofit organization that recycles the cell phones and smart phones to generate funding to provide free communications to service men, women and veterans.
- **Compost Facility Implementation** – Staff continues to operate the new aerobic compost facility near the Public Works Maintenance Facility to process yard waste (leaves, twigs, grass clippings, etc.). The high-quality compost is made available for residents to pick up at the Recycling Drop Off Site (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road), and is used by the parks department and streets department for restoration work for various city projects. Using our own compost and topsoil results in a significant cost savings.
- **Wood Chip Grinding** – Brush is ground into wood chips at the Public Works Maintenance Facility to provide wood chips for resident and municipal use.
- **Electronics Recycling Events** – Over 27,300 pounds of electronic items were collected. 2018 was the first year the event was held at City Hall, and there were very long lines with a huge turnout. It was also the first year using Resource Solutions, a WI DNR E-Cycle Certified recycler. All electronics are recycled and disposed of correctly so they don't end up in a landfill. *Spring collection* - approximately 8,415 pounds of electronic items were collected on April 21st, 2018. *Fall collection* – approximately 18,900 pounds of electronics were dropped off at the electronics recycling event on September 22, 2018.
- **Shred Day Events** – 7.15 tons of unwanted confidential documents were shredded in the trucks provided by Pellitteri for the 2018 spring and fall recycling events. In April, 3.46 tons of paper were brought by 240 vehicles. In September, 3.69 tons of paper were brought by 275 vehicles.
- **Med-Drop Collection** - In 2018, 1,197 pounds of unwanted medications were collected at the Fitchburg Police Department's permanent MedDrop Box. Disposal was conducted in conjunction with www.safecommunities.org.

- **Holiday lighting recycling** – Set up bin in City Hall Lobby and collected over 290 gallons of holiday light strings for recycling (7th year)
- **Recycling Education** – The City's Resource Conservation Commission hosted the following events in 2018: BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) event at HyVee in June, recycling education at apartment buildings, and ongoing lunchroom recycling in the Aldo Leopold School cafeteria. RCC members led a recycling education program at Aldo Leopold Elementary in 2018. Some victories with the program were eliminating plastic straws district-wide, and reducing the amount of trash generated 75%, from 60 to 15 bags of trash a day. Currently, there is a focus to expand this program beyond Aldo Leopold Elementary School.

HEALTH *(note some items like bike path and plans are already listed in previous sections and not duplicated here)*

- **Fitchburg Agriculture Plan** – The City continued to explore opportunities to implement this plan in 2018. The plan provides a comprehensive vision for approximately 11,000 acres of agricultural land in the City, including strategies to improve accessibility of local food to underserved populations.
- **Senior Recreation Programs** – Senior Center programs offered in education, health and wellness, and social/leisure encourage residents of all ages to stay active and healthy. Over 1400 people were involved in 2018.
- **Senior Citizen home repair** - Senior center volunteers dedicated time to home repairs including energy efficiency upgrades, changing furnace filters, installing LED bulbs, and installing safety devices (like ramps and grab bars).
- **Rec Center programs** – total annual enrollments were over 3200 for activities such as martial arts, archery, art camp, team sports, dance, art, yoga and mindfulness, and Zumba.
- **Tree planting** – Planted 225 trees that will eventually provide shade for vulnerable populations who may not have access to air conditioning as the climate warms and we experience more high heat days. Trees also uptake carbon dioxide and reduce air pollution.
- **Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative** – This Initiative is designed to develop and implement a collaborative and integrated approach to address specific barriers to opportunities in three northern City neighborhoods, in partnership with community/neighborhood partners. The City moved towards completion of a final draft of this Initiative's strategic plan in 2018. Adoption of this plan is scheduled for early 2019. Specific pieces of the HNI that were implemented in 2018 include awarding \$44,000 to non-profit organizations undertaking work in HNI neighborhood, collaboration with Dane County to use County grant funds to hire a "neighborhood navigator, designed to provide resource support to neighborhood residents, and garnering \$30,000 in City funds to initiate planning for a neighborhood "hub" (center) in the North Fish Hatchery Road neighborhood.